

New Mystery Hills family affair

By **LEE REMMEL**
Press-Gazette Staff Writer



Everybody Works — Every member of the R. W. (Bob) McAllister family had a hand in the construction of McAllister's Mystery Hills Golf course, scheduled to open on or about May 15—even 5-year-old Linda, youngest of the seven children. She

stands in front of Dad, at the wheel of the tractor. Others, from left, are Dennis, 11; Judy, 16; Patti, 8; Suzie, 9; Don, 13; Mrs. McAllister; and Dan, 14. McAllister previously had rented out present course as farm. (Press-Gazette Photo)

When the first foursome officially begins the treacherous 6,443-yard trek around picturesque Mystery Hills Golf Course on or about May 15, the nine members of the R. W. (Bob) McAllister family may be pardoned for breathing a huge and collective sigh of relief.

For MHGC, perhaps more than any other golf course in history, has been truly a family project. "We have seven children and they all have worked," McAllister, a wiry Scotchman with strong purpose, proudly volunteers. "Even our five-year-old, Linda, picked up stones."

In addition to Linda, an elfin tot, and mother Lois, a tireless helpmate in the pioneer pattern, the McAllister household numbers Judy, 17; Dan, 14; Don, 12; Dennis, 11; Suzy, 9, and Patti, 7.

"All of them were out there last summer, picking up stones and putting them in the trailer," Bob smiled. "And all of the boys drive tractor and help with the topsoil and the cutting. They do everything."

"We even had my sister, Ruth Carroll, out here working as well as my parents," McAllister added with a laugh. "The whole family pitched in."

Bob, an 18-year employe of Northwest Engineering who says "I always had a dream I wanted to be in the outdoor recreation business," freely admits he wasn't so lighthearted at the outset. "We were renting out the farm (a rolling 145-acre tract just 3 miles east of De Pere in the shadow of Scray's Hill) and losing money, so we thought

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Looking It Over — Five-year-old Linda McAllister, youngest member of the R. W. McAllister family (there are seven little McAllisters) which labored overtime during the last year to help

build De Pere's new Mystery Hills golf course, proudly surveys the rolling 6,443-yard layout. Trees in distance roughly bisect course from north to south. (Press-Gazette Photo)

we'd better do something. When we bought it in 1959, we thought about a subdivision or a cemetery or something — we didn't know just what.

WHEN I talked about building a golf course, Lois thought I was goofy — she almost threw me out," McAllister chuckled. "Now she's pretty tickled about it."

Today he and his spouse are the sole owners of the corporation known as Mystery Hills, Inc., which represents an estimated value of \$250,000. "That is figuring on the basis of \$10,000 a hole, plus construction and the cost of the land," Bob explained.

"If we (McAllister and all the little McAllis-

ters) weren't worth \$1.50 an hour 20 hours a day last summer, I'll eat my shirt," he declared. "We did a lot of preparatory work before we ever

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

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'Torture Chamber'—Owner R. W. (Bob) McAllister poses at flag on green of Mystery Hills, No. 2, a 564-yard challenge rated one of the area's most beautiful—and beastly—golf holes. Situated be-

tween a fence and a row of beech trees, it also boasts a king size pond 50 yards in front of the green.

(Press-Gazette Photo)



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From page 23

Mystery Hills

started on the course — tearing down fences and buildings, pulling out stumps. We spent two months tearing down fences alone."

LESS THAN two weeks hence, he devoutly hopes, the fruit of this massive labor, what promises to be one of the area's most challenging layouts — will be ready for public use. "We're shooting for May 15," he says, "but we can't promise anything. That is only the course itself, however. We're still working on the clubhouse."

The latter, a 30 x 60-foot structure which overlooks the course as well as De Pere and Green Bay, will include shower and locker facilities, which McAllister hopes to have available by June 1, a pro shop, and a kitchen. "We also expect to have a bar," he said. "We have a beer license application pending right now with the town of De Pere board."

In this connection, McAllister revealed that longtime major league bowling star John Piechowsky, a semi-retired golf addict who is secretary of the corporation, will manage the pro shop and kitchen. Piechowsky, manager of Swift & Co.'s Green Bay office for 37 years, explained his switch

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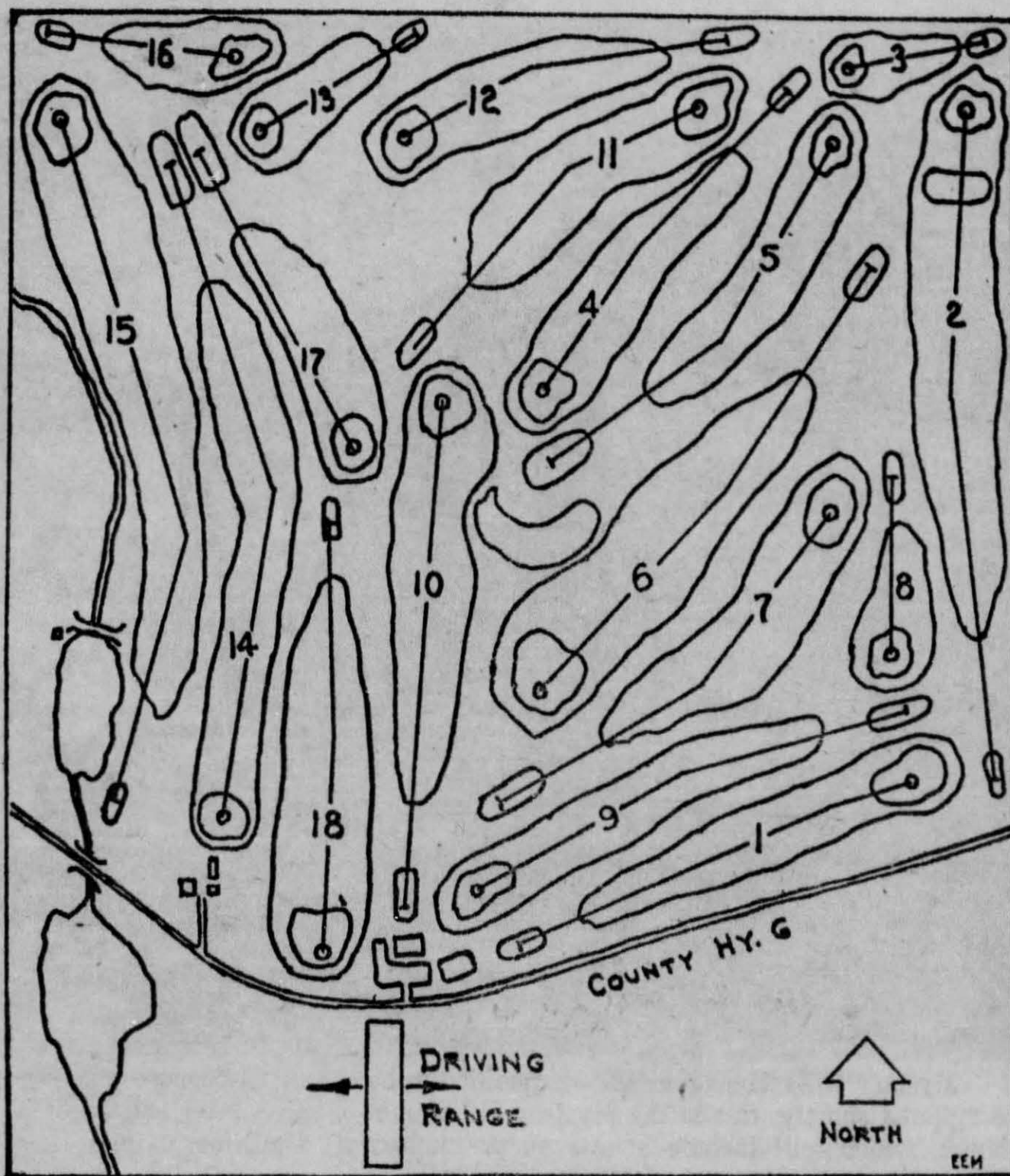


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Lay of the land

Mystery Hills—This (left) is a "map" of Brown County's newest golf course, 6,443-yard **Mystery Hills**, which is scheduled to open for play on or about May 15. Rated on a par with Oneida Golf and Riding Club and the Brown County course, it is located 3.3 miles east of De Pere on County Trunk G and also boasts an 18-acre driving range.



to the links with, "They wanted to transfer me to Chicago, but I liked this area so I quit Swift and took what equity I had in their retirement plan. Bob needed someone in the corporation, so I came in to give him a hand."

BOTH OF them take particular pride in an allied feature of the project — the 18-acre driving range located across the "street" (County Trunk G) from the course. "We actually

have two driving ranges," Bob pointed out. "There is a 200-yard range if you're hitting east and a 270-yard range if you're hitting west. And they're so situated that you never have to hit into the

sun — if one is facing the sun, you can use the other. There also are three simulated greens — you can see your ball land from the tee line."

Another McAllister delight is Mystery Hills' monstrous No. 2, a 564-yard tartar that is flanked by a row of beech trees on the left and a fence on the right and boasts a small "lake" 50 yards in front of the green. "The people who have played it (we have some limited play last fall) say this is the most beautiful golf hole in the area," Bob explained with a smile.

ALTHOUGH not too common in this locality, those beeches abound here. "That ledge area," McAllister said, gesturing to-

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Mystery Hills 'Measure'

Hole	Yard	Par	Hole	Yard	Par
1	360	4	10	428	4
2	564	5	11	313	4
3	170	3	12	333	4
4	333	4	13	160	3
5	351	4	14	486	5
6	525	5	15	566	5
7	400	4	16	163	3
8	210	3	17	288	4
9	383	4	18	410	4
	3296	36		3147	36
			Total	6443	

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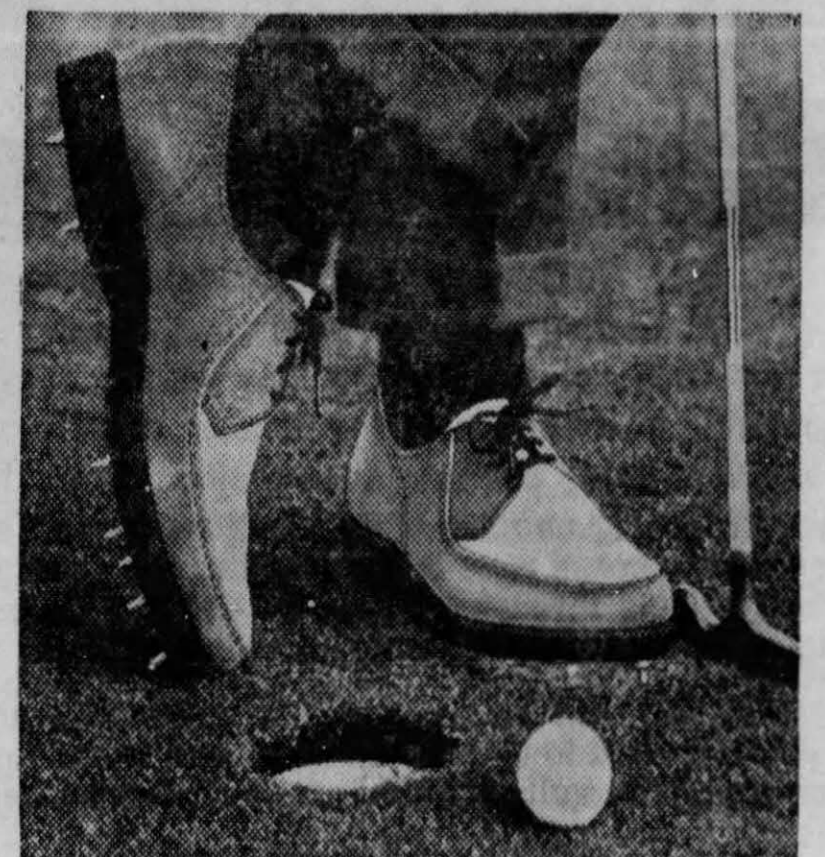
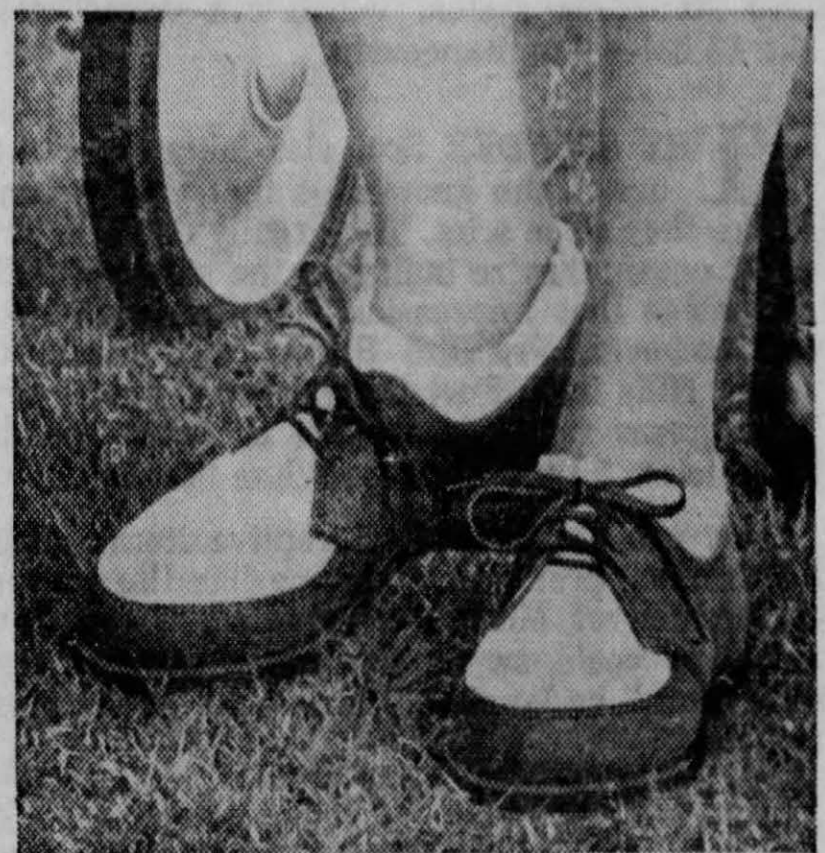
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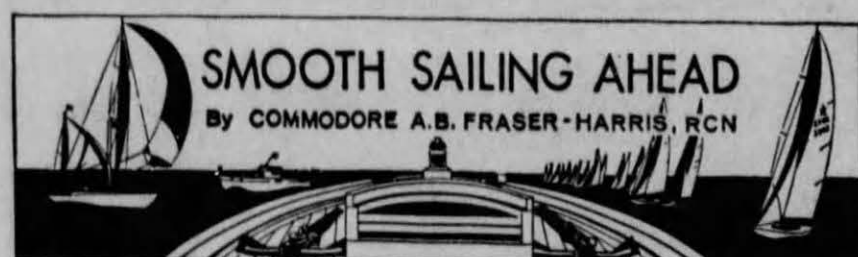
Mystery Hills

ward a long, pleasantly ragged "line" of trees that roughly bisect the course from north to south, "is all beech. We have some oak and white birch, too, and a lot of ironwoods. We've had Jay Korotev, the Brown County forester out here, and he said we've got some of the biggest ironwoods in the area."

Likewise waiting to entrap the rash and unwary are water hazards on Nos. 6, 10 and 15 (in addition to No. 2). "There are some wild ducks on the one which lies between No. 6 and No. 10," Bob reported. Water, he added, is not likely to become a problem. "We have a creek on the property which is fed by springs which originate from Scray's Hill across the road. Even after the dry winter we've had, the creek is running strong. We've got over 2 million gallons of water in it all the time," he said, pointing to the 'lake' near the south edge of the property. It ranges from 8 to 14 feet in depth and is connected to a new \$16,000 sprinkling system which can water most of the 18 holes simultaneously.

THE SLENDER Scot also takes sly pleasure in the knowledge that "the greens look like they slope a lot. They really don't — but, in most cases, they're built into the side of a hill, which gives that impression." Duffers can take heart, however. Pro Jim Brown, who comes to Mystery Hills from Fort Dodge, Iowa, points out, "These greens range from 6,000 to 10,000 feet in size, which is a little bit larger than usual."

They are not the only deceptive items about the sprawling premises. Grinning like the proverbial Cheshire cat, McAllister imparted, "I can show you where you'd swear the water was running uphill. That," he laughed, "is why we call it Mystery Hills."



IN THE very considerable increased boating activity which has developed on this continent over the last few years, it is of particular interest to note the number of sailboats which are being put into commission. From the ever enlarging number of applications to participate in the ocean race to Bermuda to the growing dinghy fleets throughout Canada and the United States, sailing activities are expanding rapidly.

For this reason, many of this year's columns will be devoted to the art of sailing and to matters pertaining to sailboats. This burgeoning interest



Mystery Hills 'Headquarters'—Scheduled to be completed shortly, this is the Mystery Hills clubhouse, which will include a pro shop, kitchen, bar and locker and shower facilities in addition to

an all-purpose meeting room. Owner R. W. (Bob) McAllister and his wife, Lois, pose in front of the 30x60-foot structure.

(Press-Gazette Photo)

in sailing is not difficult to understand; on the contrary, it is almost inevitable. While there will always remain great satisfaction in the ownership and operation of a power boat, there are unavoidable limitations to power boat operation.

Sailing, on the other hand, not only takes one out upon the water but it is a sport within itself, which provides unlimited variety and an endless opportunity for added experience and increased skill. Even the youngsters and the speed fiends are finding greater and more lasting excitement exploring the ways of the wind than they found in those "stink boats" which they have left behind.

As a healthy occupation for the 6 to the 60-year-old, sailing has few competitors. No better source of relaxation from the fast pace of today's

mechanical age is to be found than in this activity which returns us to a true understanding of the elements, and which, if it is to be practiced effectively, demands a high degree of mental concentration.

Don't be put off by inexperience or a lack of knowledge; while it is true to say that sailing is a sport which, at least competitively, can lead to the development of a very high degree of skill and technical know-how, the simple ability to handle a sailboat is very easily acquired. With it will come the enjoyment of a recreation which can last a lifetime.

* * *

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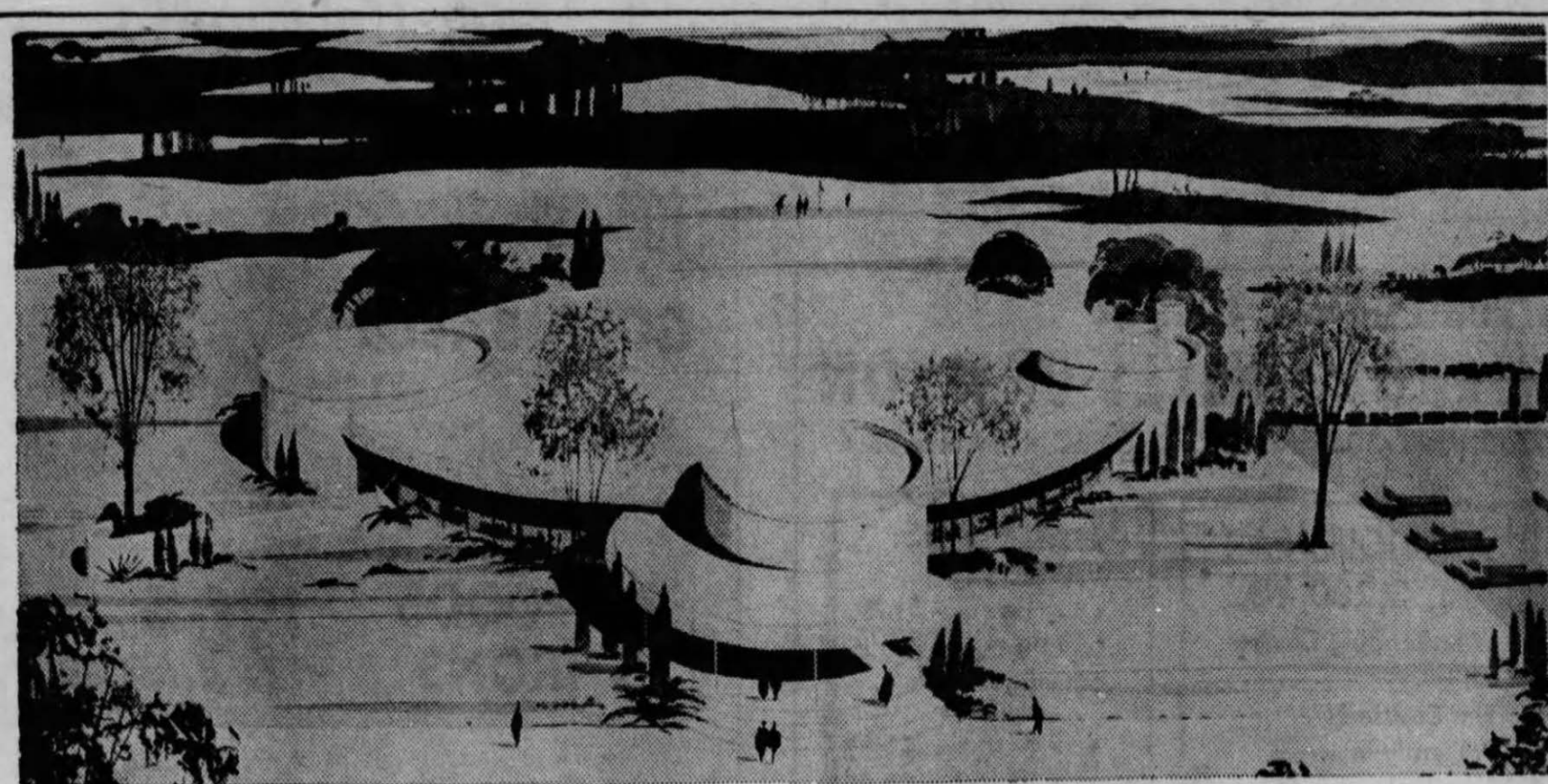
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